

Message Text

SECRET

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46

ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SCCT-01 NSC-05 NSCE-00 PM-03 SP-02

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R 191415Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SENSTATE WASHDC 6283

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

S E C R E T BEIRUT 11726

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

ITAGS: PFOR, PLO

SUBJECT: HUSSEIN'S VIEWS ON PLO

1. DURING RECENT LEAVE IN JORDAN, AMBASSADOR PICKERING KINDLY ARRANGED FOR MY WIFE AND I TO BE RECEIVED BY KING HUSSEIN WHOM MY WIFE HAD KNOWN DURING PREVIOUS POSTING IN AMMAN. DURING INFORM IBZIT-CHAT, KING TOOK ME ASIDE TO DISCUSS CURRENT LEBANESE CRISIS AND PLO'S ROLE. CITING HIS GREAT DISTRUST OF 'ARAFAT BASED ON 1970 AND PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE, HUSSEIN SAID THAT HE HOPES SOON TO OBTAIN SYRIAN PRESIDENT ASSAD'S ASSISTANCE IN EFFORT TO BRING ABOUT A MORE MODERATE AND RESPONSIBLE PLO LEADERSHIP WHICH WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO STABILITY IN LEBANON. HE INQUIRED WHETHER I THOUGHT PRESIDENT FRANGIEH AND GOL WOULD WELCOME SUCH ACTION ON THEIR PART.

2. I EXPRESSED INTEREST IN HIS EVALUATION OF 'ARAFAT INDICATING THAT, AS A NEWCOMER TO THE MIDDLE EASTERN SCENE, I PERSONALLY CONSIDERED 'ARAFAT MORE MODERATE THAN SOME OF THE OTHER PALESTINIANS I HAD HEARD ABOUT. WITH REGARD TO THE LEBANESE REACTION TO ANY INTERFERENCE IN LEBANESE INTERNAL POLITICAL MATTERS SUCH AS HE HAD OUTLINED, I OPINED THAT THE LEBANESE WOULD WELCOME HELP

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FROM ANY QUARTER AND WERE NOT INCLINED TO RESENT

INTERFERENCE FROM ABROAD. TO THE CONTRARY, AT THE
END OF ROUNDS 1, 2, AND 3 THEY GRATEFULLY WELCOMED
EGYPTIAN AND SYRIAN MEDIATION.
GODLEY

SECRET

NNN

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